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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 SAJ-01 SAM-01 EB-07 /071 W
---------- 064629
R 162149Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0184
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMCONSUL KRAKOW
AMCONSUL POZNAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 08038

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, PL, GW
SUBJECT: FRG-POLISH RELATIONS

REFS: (A) WARSAW 2593, (B) WARSAW 2449, (C) BONN 4096,
(D) BONN 3872

BEGIN SUMMARY: IN DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFF ON MAY 15,
POLISH DESK OFFICER IN FRG FONOFF STRESSED FOLLOWING
POINTS: APRIL ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS IN BONN RE AN FRG-
POLISH PENSION AGREEMENT RESOLVED "ALMOST ALL" OUT-
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STANDING TECHNICAL ISSUES; THE FRG IS PREPARED TO BE

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"SOMEWHAT MORE FLEXIBLE" RE THE OVERALL SIZE OF
PAYMENTS TO POLAND, BUT REMAINS
ADAMANT THAT A MINIMUM OF 150,000 ETHNIC GERMANS BE
PERMITTED TO RESETTLE IN THE FRG; A SCHMIDT-GIEREK
SUMMIT AT THE CONCLUSION OF CSCE IN HELSINKI OFFERS
"PROBABLY THE ONLY REAL CHANCE" TO RESOLVE THE PENSION,
CREDITS, AND RESETTLEMENT ISSUES BEFORE THE 1975 POLISH
PZPR CONGRESS AND THE 1976 GERMAN ELECTIONS; RECENT
MORE MODERATE POLISH STATEMENTS ABOUT SCHROEDER,
SCHMIDT AND THE FRG GENERALLY ARE VIEWED AS "ATMOS-
PHERIC" IN VIEW OF CONTINUING POLISH EFFORTS TO
WORK THROUGH THIRD COUNTRIES TO EXERT PRESSURE ON THE
FRG TO BE MORE FORTHCOMING ON PENSIONS AND CREDITS.
END SUMMARY

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF ON MAY 15, FRG FONOFF
POLISH DESK OFFICER PLAYED DOWN NOTION OF ANY
SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN FRG-POLISH RELATIONS IN PAST
SEVERAL WEEKS. WHEREAS APRIL FRG-POLISH PENSION
DISCUSSIONS IN BONN HAD GENERATED AGREEMENT ON "ALMOST
ALL" TECHNICAL ISSUES, THE KEY QUESTION RE THE AMOUNT
OF THE FRG LUMP-SUM PAYMENT HAS NOT YET BEEN DISCUSSED
IN FORMAL SESSIONS (OUR SOURCE LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT
IT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED IN "INFORMAL" DISCUSSIONS). ON A
STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL BASIS OUR SOURCE STATED THAT THE
FRG WAS NEARING A DECISION TO FORMALLY PROPOSE A FIGURE
OF DM 1.3 BILLION (PARA 2, REFTEL C) AT THE NEXT
MEETING IN WARSAW; AS PRESENTLY ENVISAGED, THE GERMAN
PROPOSAL FORESEES AN INITIAL PAYMENT OF DM 250 MILLION
IN 1976, WITH GRADUALLY DECREASING PAYMENTS OVER THE
NEXT TWENTY YEARS UNTIL THE DM 1.3 BILLION FIGURE IS
REACHED.

2. OUR SOURCE STATED THAT THE FRG IS NOW PREPARED TO
BE "SOMEWHAT MORE FLEXIBLE" WITH RESPECT TO BOTH THE
AMOUNT OF CREDIT TO BE EXTENDED TO POLAND AS WELL AS
THE CONCESSIONARY INTEREST RATES TO BE CHARGED; THE FRG
IS ALSO WILLING TO RECONSIDER THE GRACE PERIOD IN
CONNECTION WITH REPAYMENT. NEVERTHELESS, THE FRG
REMAINS ADAMANT THAT A MINIMUM OF 150,000 POLISH ETHNIC
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GERMANS BE ALLOWED TO EMIGRATE TO THE FRG, AND THAT THE
POSSIBILITY OF ADDITIONAL GERMAN EMIGRATION BE LEFT
OPEN (SEVERAL TIMES OUR SOURCE MENTIONED THE FIGURE OF
280,000 ETHNIC GERMANS LIVING IN POLAND WHO HAD
REGISTERED WITH THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS).

3. ACCORDING TO OUR FONOFF CONTACT, A SCHMIDT-GIEREK
SUMMIT AT THE CONCLUSION OF CSCE IN HELSINKI (PARA 3,

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REFTEL B) NOW OFFERS "PROBABLY THE ONLY REAL CHANCE" TO ACHIEVE THE FUNDAMENTAL POLITICAL UNDERSTANDING NECESSARY TO RESOLVE THE ISSUES IN PARAS 1 AND 2 BEFORE THE 1975 POLISH PZPR CONGRESS AND THE 1976 FRG ELECTIONS. WHEN ASKED IF A SCHMIDT-GIEREK SUMMIT IN HELSINKI WAS PROBABLE, OUR SOURCE REPLIED THAT HE "WOULD NOT DISCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY."

4. OUR CONTACT DISMISSED RECENT "SIGNALS FROM BEYOND THE ELBE" (REFTELS A AND B) AS MERE "ATMOSPHERICS." THE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 08038

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POLES CRITICIZE THE FRG POSITION ON CREDITS, PENSIONS, AND RESETTLEMENT WITH THIRD PARTIES "AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY." IN FACT, THE FRG FONOFF IS CURRENTLY FORMULATING DETAILED GUIDANCE ON THESE ISSUES FOR FRG POSTS IN WESTERN EUROPE IN VIEW OF THE CONTINUING POLISH EFFORT TO USE THIRD COUNTRIES TO PRESSURE THE FRG TO BE MORE FORTHCOMING. FOR EXAMPLE, THE FRG FONOFF WILL SHORTLY TRANSMIT DETAILED GUIDANCE TO ITS EMBASSIES IN STOCKHOLM AND LONDON IN VIEW OF GIEREK'S PENDING VISITS
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TO THESE CAPITALS.

5. IN SUM, AS MIGHT BE EXPECTED (PARA 2, REFTEL D), OUR SOURCE PAINTED A PICTURE OF RENEWED FRG FLEXIBILITY CONTRASTED WITH POLISH RIGIDITY. RECENT MORE MODERATE ARTICLES IN THE POLISH PRESS NOTWITHSTANDING, OUR CONTACT SEES LITTLE REASON TO EXPECT A MARKED IMPROVEMENT IN FRG-POLISH RELATIONS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

6. TEXT OF SCHMIDT'S VORWAERTS ARTICLE ON FRG-POLISH RELATIONS (PARA 7, REFTEL A) BEING SENT ADDRESSEES BY AIRGRAM.

7. COMMENT: WE ARE NOT SURPRISED THAT THE FRG IS CONSIDERING PAYING A LARGER LUMP SUM FOR PENSIONS, SINCE THIS HAS BEEN FOR SOME TIME REGARDED AS THE VEHICLE THROUGH WHICH POLISH "COMPENSATION" CLAIMS WOULD BE HANDLED. THE INDICATION IN PARA 2 THAT THE FRG MIGHT ALSO BE PREPARED TO EXPAND THE AMOUNT OF DM 1 BILLION CREDIT IS, HOWEVER, THE FIRST THING WE HAVE SEEN ALONG THESE LINES; FURTHERMORE, ECONOMIC EXPERTS IN BOTH THE FINANCE AND ECONOMIC MINISTRIES HAVE CONTINUED TO INSIST IN THEIR CONVERSATIONS WITH US THAT THERE IS NO PROSPECT FOR SUCH AN ENLARGEMENT. OBVIOUSLY, ANY DECISION IN FAVOR OF AN ENLARGEMENT WOULD BE TAKEN AT THE HIGHEST POLITICAL LEVEL.
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